

**REMARKS**

Prior to an examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

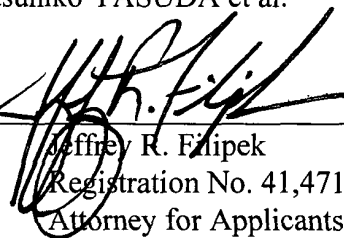
Various editorial amendments have been made to the specification. It is submitted that no new matter has been added to the application via such amendments.

Also, by this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-20 have been canceled.

Respectfully submitted,

Katsuhiko YASUDA et al.

By



Jeffrey R. Filipek  
Registration No. 41,471  
Attorney for Applicants

JRF/fs  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
September 24, 2003